(b) There are adequate domestic manufacturing outfits to meet the demand for power transmission and distribution equipment in the country, In addition, various manufacturers and increasing their capacities to meet this demand. Ministry of power is also interacting with Indian Electrical & Electronics Manufacturers Association (IEEMA) and other manufacturers so that the projected demands are met.

(c) No such specific information is available with Ministry of Power.

(d) The expenditure of Research and Development (R & D) in power sector is made both by public and private sector. The expenditure on R & D by various Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPUs) under Ministry of Power during the year 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 was Rs.36.39 crore, Rs. 27.06 crores and Rs.33.52 crores respectively.

Post matric scholarships for SCs and STs

438. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minsiter of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any decision to impose the condition of sixty per cent marks as a criterion for eligibility for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students for post-matric scholarships in professional institutions;

(b) if so, the details and the reasons for the same;

(c) if so, the number of such scholarships issued to students belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe during the last three years, State-wise;

(d) if so, whether any representations have been submitted for scrapping the above proposal;

(e) if so, the details of action taken on the above representations; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (f) The Government of India has decided to implement the Scheme of Post Matric Scholarships to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students, as it operated during the Tenth Plan period.

Menance of beggary

439. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that beggary is on increase in the country these days;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to put a clear ban on the beggary in the country and by when it expected to be introduced; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) No baseline data is available to show that beggary is on the increase in the country. State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations have taken effective steps including penal action under local Laws to curb this practice. At present 18 States and 3 Union Territories have special Laws.

Utilization of funds for disabled persons

440. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds for disabled persons are not utilized;

(b) if so, the total funds earmarked for disabled persons during the last three years;

(c) how much funds were utilized and how much were unutilized;

(d) what are the main reasons for the same; and

(e) whether Government is considering to take concrete measures to utilize these funds properly in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) (a) to (e) Government of India releases funds for the various programmes connected with persons with disabilities mainly Non-Governmental Organisations, National Institutes, Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India and National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation. During 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, Rs. 130.55 crore, Rs. 124.71 crore and Rs. 122.19 crore were released. Since there is no earmarking of funds State-wise, actual releases are dependent upon timely receipt of proposals with complete set of documents.

Taking into account past experience, the procedure for sanction of grant-in-aid to Non-Governmental Organisations has been streamlined from current financial year. The State Governments had been advised to send consolidated proposals after getting them scrutinized by a multi-disciplinary committee.

To ensure proper utilization of funds, periodic progress reports are obtained apart from audited statement of accounts, list of beneficiaries and urilization certificates.

Allocation of funds for SCs/STs

441. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to make a budget allocation of 25 per cent exclusively for SCs/STs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the comparative details of budget allocation for SCs/STs during the last three years;